

and poor clothing, and he has given you decent and warm clothes; you had no home, and he has opened the doors of an asylum for you. Here your hands are employed in useful manual labor, whilst your intellect is cultivated by instruction and mental exercises, and mind and heart are trained in the path of truth and virtue. Then turning toward you, the Heavenly Father directs your attention to the kind Sister of Charity: "Behold your mother," says He "*ecce Mater tua!*" And, indeed, this Christian virgin lavishes all the tender cares of a true mother upon you; her sweet look, her solacing and encouraging smile, her modest appearance, her compassionate kindness have touched and won your young heart. No wonder, therefore, if, in a rapture of love and gratitude, you are forced to cry out: "My earthly parents have been taken from me, but our dear Lord has Himself taken me under His protection!"

Still the poor orphan is always to be pitied; and he would be so by far more if, through a wise and merciful Providence, he should not find in the Priest and Sister of Charity the parents he had the misfortune to lose.

And now, dear reader, who is more an orphan than the poor souls of Purgatory? They are separated from their heavenly Father; and it is just this separation in which consists their severest punishment and pain. How slowly must not pass the hours in this state of separation! Far off from their Father, whom they love so dearly, whom they adore and worship, the separation from whom is so painful to them, they are weeping, sighing, moaning. Unable to soar up to the sight of this Father, they call Him by the sweetest names, but their Father does not answer them! They are separated from their Mother! These poor orphans know well that in heaven they have a Mother who is all goodness, love, and mercy; but the

justice of God has veiled her amiable countenance from their sight. Listen to their cries in the bitterness of their sorrow: "Oh Mary, queen and patroness of Purgatory, give us a sign of thy clemency, do not disdain to plead our cause. Oh good, Oh tender Mother, open, Oh do open heaven to us!"

And Mary, who on earth never is invoked in vain, for the first time does not answer their supplications.

Dear reader, it is in your power to give back to these poor desolate souls the Father and Mother, whom they have lost. Orphans of this world, remember that your parents are perhaps orphans in a higher degree, and more to be pitied than you; pray, therefore, with us for them; let us pray together for the Orphanhood of Purgatory.

THEIR GRATITUDE.

The soul, or souls, delivered from the torments of Purgatory through our intercession, will never forget the services rendered to them, but will consider it a duty to watch over our welfare, both spiritual and temporal, will not cease to plead our cause before the throne of mercy. And should it happen that these souls, delivered through our mediation, are those of our father or mother, ah, then they will doubtless be another Guardian-Angel to us. They will mingle their powerful prayers with ours, and render them resistless in the sight of God.

"An alms given with the intention of relieving the souls in Purgatory, is more precious than that given to raise the dead to life, even should it have that effect."—ST. CHRYSOSTOM.

"I have obtained more easily what I have prayed for through the intercession of the souls in Purgatory, than by the intercession of the Saints in Heaven."—ST. CATHERINE OF BOLOGNA.